

REMARKS

Claims 5-15 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. Initially, Applicants submit herewith a new Figure 3 to correct the drawing objection. Also, Applicants submit a new Abstract to overcome the Abstract objection.

Regarding the rejection of claims 5-15 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Applicants submit herewith a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this rejection.

Regarding the 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) rejection of claims 5, 8 and 14 based on RIDOLFO (US 2003/0216888), Applicants submit herewith an English-language translation of their Japanese priority document JP 2001-052779. The Japanese priority document has a filing date of February 27, 2001. This priority date predates the effective U.S. filing date of RIDOLFO, i.e., March 28, 2001, and hence removes RIDOLFO as a reference. Applicants are in the process of verifying the translation and will submit a supplemental response shortly.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit claims 5-15 are now in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.


If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and

please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit
Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.50393C2).

Respectfully submitted,

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 3. In Figure 3, the words “data base” has been changed to “database”.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet